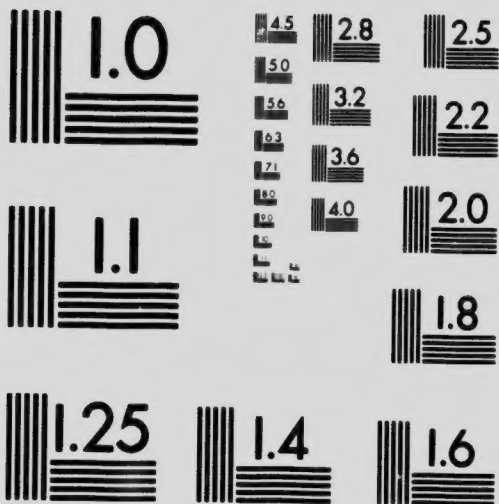




MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL 1010a
(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)



"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."—*Boecher*.

"Books may be to you an amulet against vice and misery."—*Furness*.

LIBRARY EXTENSION IN ONTARIO.



TRAVELLING LIBRARIES AND READING CAMPS.

The men of the book are still there in the mines and lumber camps of the mountains, fighting out that eternal fight for manhood, strong, clean, God-conquered. And when the west winds blow to the open ear the sounds of battle come telling the fortunes of the fight.—

Ralph Connor, in Preface to "Black Reel."

MAINTENANCE OF PREDOMINANCE

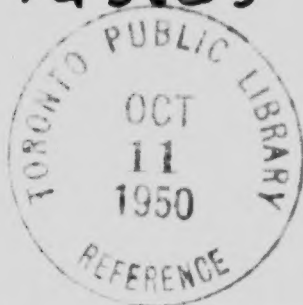
On the training of man, under Providence, depends the future, and the immediate future of the race; and what is Empire but the predominance of Empire? How is that predominance to be secured? Remember the conditions—nations are becoming more dense and numerous, and therefore more hungry and more difficult to satisfy.

It is with intelligence that we must struggle and to vie. This conflict gives us no reason to fear if we choose to use ourselves. (Cheers.) We have, I believe, the best natural material in the world. But I doubt if we are sufficiently alive to the exigencies of the situation. If nations desire to survive they must constantly sharpen their intelligence and equipment. They need the constant co-operation of the government with the governed; of science and vigilance with commerce; of the teachers with the taught. Planting a flag here and there or demarcating regions with a red line on a map are vain diversions if they do not imply an unswerving purpose to develop and to maintain. But maintenance requires that we shall be alive to all modern methods. . . . For, from our point of view, there is not a close in the farthest quarters of Glasgow, or a crofter's cabin in the Hebrides, which is not a matter of Imperial concern.

LORD ROSEBERRY.

To the Students of Glasgow University.
Nov. 16th, 1900.

F43205



LIBRARY EXTENSION.



INTRODUCTORY.

An effort is being made to advance the educational and other interests of the more isolated classes of laborers. It is believed that systematic home study ought to be made possible for all workmen, even those whose conditions are the most adverse. It is also believed that the Education Department for the Province, assisted by Colleges, Churches, Y.M.C.A., W.C.T.U., and other religious organizations are the best agencies to accomplish this work.

This pamphlet contains a statement of work of this kind begun amongst woodsmen, undertaken by way of experiment. It is hoped that in this way camp life can be made more homelike, that the men will improve their spare moments, that they will quit the demoralizing tramp habit of "jumping," and that they will be less likely to frequent the saloons.

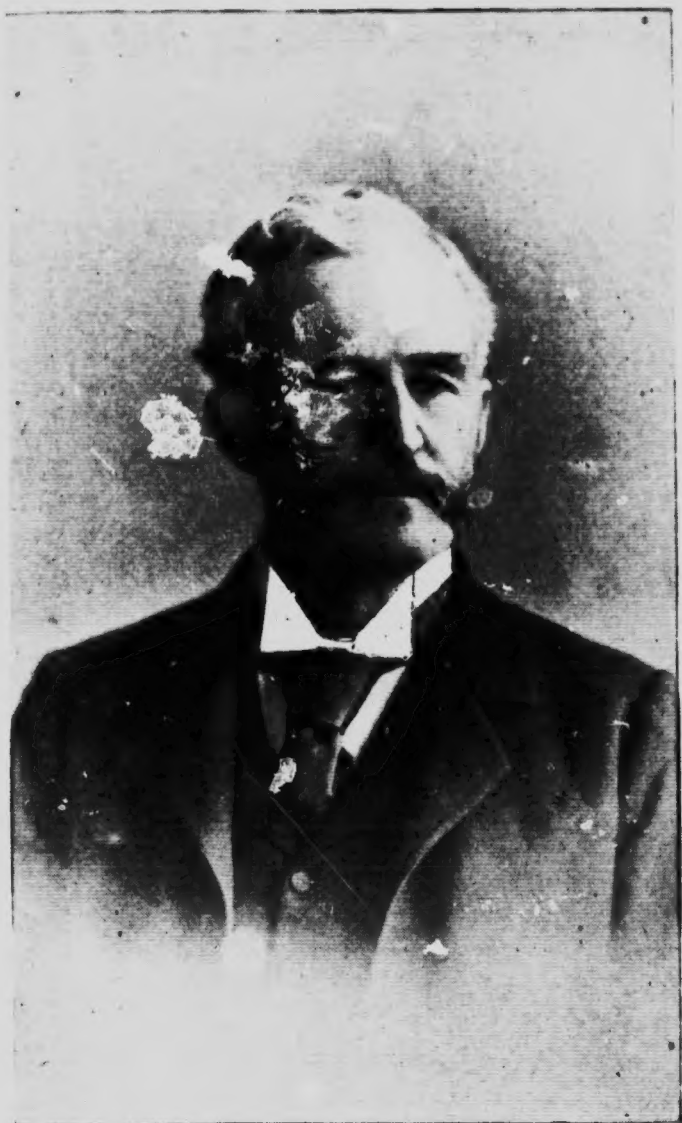
HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

The Ontario Public Libraries' Act does not, according to the letter at least, embrace the needs of lumber and mining camps. It was felt however that all that was necessary to make it apply to these classes was to ask for the privilege.

The Little Current Library Board, being within easy reach of large numbers of woodsmen, on Sept. 4th, was asked to request the Minister of Education to allow it to send small branch libraries into the camps in that vicinity. To this the Board heartily and unanimously agreed.

In support of this request a circular was then forwarded to a number of the leading lumber firms at present operating in the province with the following recommendations: That a travelling library commission be appointed, and a sum of money appropriated by the Ontario Government with which to purchase books of the most approved literature; and that in the mean time, to assist in meeting the present needs, all public library boards be allowed the privilege of sending small collections of books into the camps.

This circular was cordially endorsed by dozens of influential lumbermen, and others. Among these were: Messrs. J. R. Booth, John Charlton, M.P.; A. E. Dymont, M.P.; C. Beck, F. H. Clergue, The Hull Lumber Co., Edmund Hall, The Victoria Harbor Lumber Co., The Saginaw Salt & Lumber Co., W. Charlton, M.P.P.; John Bertram, M.P.P.; W. E. Bigwood.



THE HON. RICHARD HARCOURT,
Minister of Education.

Keeling & Bower, Angus McLeod, and many others. The Church of England and Roman Catholic Bishops of Algoma, and the Rev. Dr. Findlay, Superintendent of Presbyterian missions for Algoma and Nipissing, and many other clergymen endorse the movement.

The Presbytery of North Bay on Sept. 27th passed the following resolution :

That this Presbytery is in hearty sympathy with the request of the Little Current Library Board, and heartily voices itself unanimously in favor of the proposed extension of the Public Libraries Act.

The Department of Education immediately acted upon the suggestion, and has given every encouragement to the scheme.

The only objections raised by the very few who seemed indifferent to the project were (1) That many of the men engaged in these industries could not read, and (2) That the hours of labor were necessarily too long to admit of reading or study.

READING CAMPS.*

To ascertain whether any means can be found of overcoming these difficulties, and to give the experiment of good literature in the camps a fair trial, an extra building has been put up at two camps, five and

*The word camp is used in two senses: (1) In its original sense, to denote the whole outfit, including all the shacks, shanties, stables, etc. (2) In compound words, to designate the more important buildings, as the cook-camp, sleep-camp, etc. Accordingly it is allowable to use the more euphonious term reading-camp, although it is more consistent to say reading-shanty or reading-room.

twelve miles respectively from Nairn Centre. A third has been built twenty-one miles south of Whitefish Station. The first mentioned at a camp operated by the Victoria Harbor Lumber Co., the second at one of Mr. Edmund Hall's camps, and the last at Mr. J. J. McFadden's.

Branch libraries in French and English from the Nairn Centre Public Library have been placed in these reading camps. One of the McGill University travelling libraries will be circulated in the Victoria Harbor Co.'s Camp No. 2. Several weekly and daily papers, including "La Presse," one of the leading dailies in the French language, have been subscribed for the exclusive use of the reading shanties. Many illustrated magazines have been received from friends. One-syllable editions of Robinson Crusoe, Swiss Family Robinson, and Pilgrim's Progress are being given those who cannot read, and they are being urged to improve their spare moments, and ask help from the nearest neighbor. The principle of mutual help is being encouraged. If the funds will warrant it prizes will be offered for the men who, being unable to read or write the English language, will in the course of the winter acquire either art. Branch libraries are also being circulated in a few camps where there are no reading rooms.

In this way nearly six hundred men in this vicinity will have the advantage of a good public library, and those of them in three of the camps whose elementary edu-

cation was neglected will have an opportunity of improving it.

BRANCH LIBRARIES INADEQUATE.

Even assuming that all public library boards asked would be willing to share their advantages with these isolated toilers, which is unlikely, the plan is quite inadequate and impracticable for any length of time. It is merely intended to bring the matter definitely before the public in general, and the Ontario Government in particular, permit of an experiment, and supplement the work of the churches and other religious organizations, until the Department of Education will have completed a system of travelling libraries.

CAMP BUILDING.

The camp building of to-day is different from what it was twenty years ago when the whole outfit was made of logs, and no stoves or windows were used. Now the floor and roof are made of boards, and there are many other items of expense as tarpaper, seats, tables, etc.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOOD.

Great improvement in the quality and variety of food supplied to the camp of to-day is also noticeable, in comparison to what it was when salt pork and beans and hard tack were the only articles of diet, when sugar was not thought of, when tea was a luxury and those who used it had

to pay extra for it. At present there is just as much variety and the food is just as wholesome, and just as well prepared as it is in the average hotel. All credit is due to lumbermen, who seem to vie with one another in supplying the best food on the market.

MAN NOT A MACHINE.

There is, however, room for development along the line of accommodation, and it is most encouraging to find a hearty response on the part of lumbermen as to this suggestion. Man has a mental and moral nature as well as a physical. By a perfect system of railroad and toting transportation, food is provided for the woodsman's bodily wants, and there is no reason why suitable means may not be found to regularly and systematically supply his other needs.

VARIETY IN STYLE OF READING ROOMS.

In order to ascertain the most suitable building for this purpose, the shanties in question are built of different sizes. One is divided by a partition, thus separating it into two rooms, one to serve the purpose of a smoking room with games, the other that of a reading and study room. The partition is put up in sections easily removable, so that the whole can be thrown into

one large room, in the event of its being required for a religious service, social concert or lecture.

COST OF SUPPLYING READING SHANTIES.

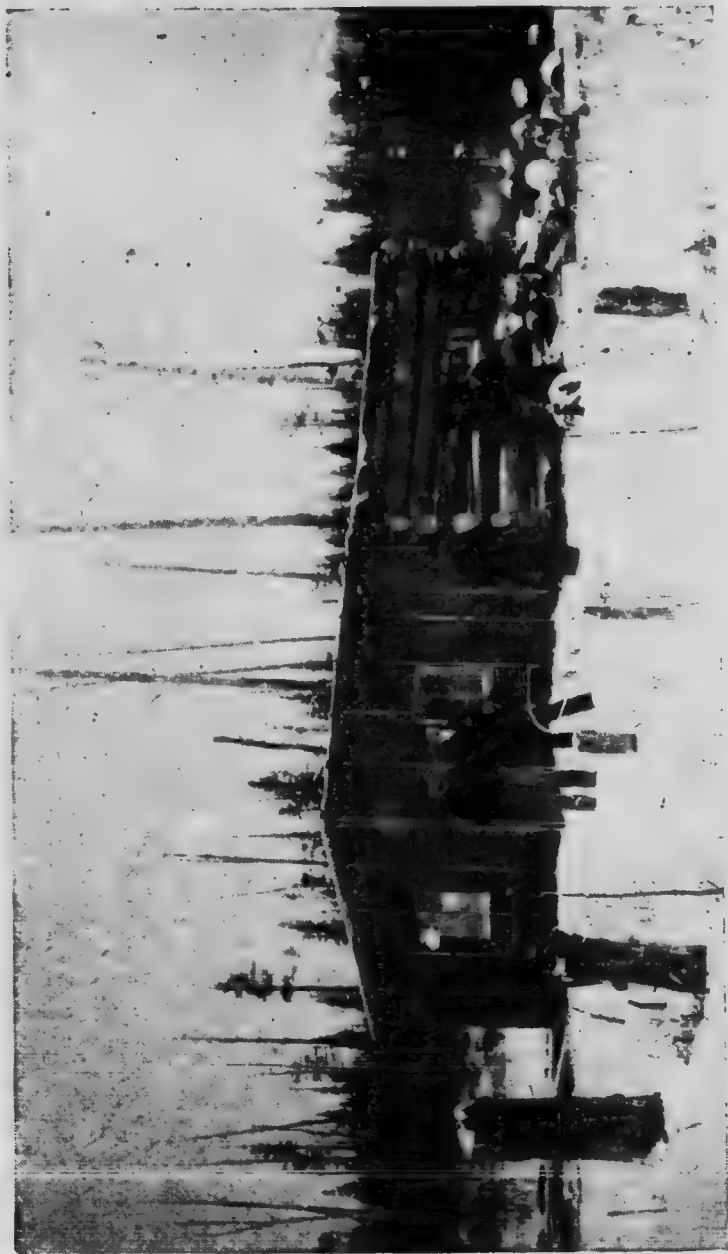
According to the Crown Timber Agent's report for 1899 there were 422 camps in the month of October, in the Province of Ontario, under government supervision. This would mean possibly double that number in January. But as some of these are small we may suppose that there are at least five hundred large camps, with an average of seventy men at work in mid-winter. The average cost of building, equipping and running a reading room without literature would be at least \$150. Were the philanthropically inclined who are interested in their fellow-men and in their country's good to offer the lumbermen of Ontario \$150 for all camps of not less than seventy men, to enable them to build reading shanties, they would require to advance \$75,000. With the co-operation of the lumbermen it is probable that half this sum would suffice. But even \$37,500 is a formidable-looking amount. It is not any larger however than scores of congregations invest in their church buildings. Besides, it would reach 35,000 men, whereas the average thirty-five thousand dollar church does not reach one thousand men.

This expenditure would not be for one

year only. The average life of a camp is nearly two years. When the camp breaks up the roofing, flooring, stoves, etc., in most cases could easily be used in a new shanty. We may therefore say that with the co-operation of the lumbermen \$37,500 would provide accommodation of this sort for the first year, and \$25,000 or less each succeeding year; and judging from the kindly reception already given the movement by lumbermen this would also cover the salary of a capable, enthusiastic man to supervise the work.

WOODSMAN'S COMPARED WITH SOLDIER'S LIFE.

And even if lumbermen were wholly indifferent to this move why should the whole amount not be given? The country spends more than \$75,000 on a few hardened criminals. Why neglect the young and innocent who are ostracized and isolated by the nature of their work? Do they not deserve their country's gifts and blessing for filling the advance posts of civilization? That they do this work gives others an opportunity to remain at home. Woodsmen are surely most deserving at the hands of their fellow-countrymen. Their hardships are as great and their dangers as many as those engaged in military service. Despite this they lack the inspiration of their country's honor and applause. They never know the



First Reading Shanty, which proved too small; log walls, 16 x 18 feet; annex, 12 x 14 feet; Victoria Harbor Co.'s Camp 2.

stimulus incident to the exploitation of an enemy's country, the stirring of martial music, and the trappings of war. Their isolation is more complete. Their life is solitary and humdrum, without change of scene or the incentive of good society. Soldiers are better dressed, more in the best society and generally in larger bodies. Shantymen seldom see any one outside of their own camp of from sixty to one hundred men. They receive little attention from the Church, less from the public generally, and until recently none from the government. Every army has its surgeons and hospital staff, and a larger percentage of sick and wounded soldiers recover. It is true that woodsmen may avail themselves of able physicians and surgeons and good hospitals, but often not until it is too late. They are subject, too, to all the diseases peculiar to unsanitary conditions in the undeveloped districts, there being few sanitary regulations and less government inspection of these, which neglect in the light of modern scientific discovery is criminal. That persistent rheumatism, those prematurely grey hairs, that old expression on many young and kindly faces, the cripples that hover about the camps compelled to live upon the charity of their noble-hearted comrades, because deserted by their country, tell plainly that life in the forest is a warfare from whose battles few return uninjured. They are consequently so weakened morally by this isolation and neglect that they yield more easily to temptation.

ENLARGE THE RANGE OF INTEREST.

Regarding the second objection that the hours of labor are too long to admit of reading or study, no doubt we should look forward to the gradual shortening of the hours of labor of all workingmen. What, however, is of more immediate importance is to enlarge the range of interest in life for the laborer that he may employ in a wholesome and profitable manner such hours of leisure as he has, that when the opportunity comes he may know how to use more free time. As a matter of fact employers often fear to give their men too much spare time not from mercenary motives, but lest the time should be abused and employed in gambling, drinking and worse evils. In the existing condition of society there is usually more harm done on Sundays and other days on which men are off work than on any other day. Especially is this true of camp life. During spare hours shantymen suffer more from ennui, from their negative intellectual and moral life than from over work on other days. Experience proves that to increase the hours of freedom without insuring that these hours are to be well employed is to drag men downward, and that this is true of the rich as well as the poor.

"NO DAY WITHOUT A LITTLE."

At present all we ask is that these men have a chance to improve what leisure hours they have. Every laborer has some

little time at his disposal. Wonders have been accomplished with the motto: "No day without a little." Only last month a cook in a lumber camp, a bright young French-Canadian, told me that he learned to read English in three months and that he learned to write it in three weeks, and that, too, while on duty for nineteen hours a day. He kept an interesting novel on a shelf beside him, and had the letters written on a card in front of him. He studied their form, and wrote them in his mind when at work. In spare moments he would read and write words and sentences. This statement is vouched for by his employer, with whom he worked four years. Given the proper incentive and even those whose hours of labor are longest will accomplish much. The public education systems of the twentieth century will be characterized by greater attention to home study.

THE NEED URGENT.

It may be asked, why not begin with mining and saw-mill towns? The need is not so great. Besides they are at least partially provided for. Under the present Public Libraries' Act very little effort is required to secure a public library in towns and villages, and even in rural districts. Indeed, there is reason to believe that several lumbermen will build reading rooms at their saw-mills in the early spring, especially if the Ontario Government will establish on a business basis a system of

travelling libraries. In fact one will probably test the feasibility of the travelling library in connection with river-driving operations. As a matter of fact the need for an extension of the public library system to lumber and mining camps is imperative, as the majority of men on the frontier seem prejudiced against the so-called religious literature, the supply of which is fragmentary, and for lack of unity of action, necessarily distributed unequally without system.

OBJECT OF THE EXPERIMENT.

This experiment is an attempt to demonstrate that reading-camps are feasible, practicable and meet a most urgent need. Should it prove successful it is hoped that the Ontario Government, receiving as it does a large revenue from the timber and mining lands of the Province, will set apart a small portion of it to benefit the woodsmen and miners. Judging from the very cordial manner in which the Department of Education has taken up the work the test was not required, or at least a very short one will be necessary.

THE MCGILL TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

Simultaneously with the announcement that the Department of Education has taken this matter under its favorable consideration comes the equally good news that the gift

of one of Montreal's worthy sons has made possible a travelling library system in connection with McGill University, that its limits are not to be confined to the Province of Quebec, that it will assist in meeting the needs of the woodsmen, and that one library is being sent as an experiment.

CONCLUSIONS.

Only a few of the letters received endorsing the proposed extension of the public library system, and the building of reading camps are here given. As these are representative we may reasonably infer that the consensus of opinion is in favor of: (1) A system of travelling libraries on a thoroughly business basis, and (2) The provision of reading camps for woodsmen and miners, the nature of whose work isolates them from all other social, literary and religious privileges. (3) The appointment of persons specially qualified to supervise the work, and adapt it to the peculiar conditions and temperaments of the people sought to be benefited.

VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION.

With the kind co-operation of not a few lumbermen the cost of the reading shanties will be materially reduced, several freely offering to bear the whole expense of building these at their new camps next summer.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Nairn Centre, a little band of workers already burdened with pioneer work in this new country, have gallantly volunteered to assist. Substantial aid has also been received in the way of comfort bags, tracts, books, etc., from Miss Sproule, travelling representative of the W.C.T.U., and from the Unions of Barrie and Sudbury. In fact this institution as a whole, and the Lady Aberdeen Association, have perhaps done most in this direction. The former invented the "comfort bag," which has been a boon to thousands of woodsmen. Books and papers have been received from the Presbyterian Church, Barrie, Miss Malcolm, of Norwich, and from Mrs. J. B. Hammond of Nairn Centre. Mr. T. H. Litster, of Toronto, who visited one of the reading camps when hunting in November, has presented the boys with a box of books and two sets of checkers and dominoes. Mr. A. P. Willis, of Montreal, kindly offered the use of three organs for the winter on condition that the C. P. R. would ship them free of charge to and from the camps. This the C. P. R. is very generously doing.

It has been thought well to give the public generally an opportunity of co-operating in this experiment, and assisting in making it a success. Mr. W. J. Bell, lumberman, Nairn Centre, is acting as treasurer pro. tem., and all contributions ought to be addressed to him. Should more money than is necessary for the



Inside view of Reading Shanty, Victoria Harbor Co.'s Camp 2.

undertaking be received it will be used for a similar purpose elsewhere.

ALFRED FITZPATRICK.

Nairn Centre, Ont.,

Feb. 5th, 1901.

CASH RECEIPTS.

A complete financial statement will be made public later on. In the meantime the following cash contributions have been received :

Mr. Robert Peters, Nairn Centre.....	\$ 1.00
Rev. A. J. Brace, Webbwood.....	5.50
Rev. John Millar, M.A., Phoenix, B C.	5.00
Rev. Prof. Sharp, Queen's University.	5.00
The W.C.T.U., of Barrie	5.00
The W.C.T.U., of Nairn Centre	25.00
Mr. Samuel Johnston, Bush Ranger,	
New Market	1.00
Miss M. Anthes, Wapella	2.00

Besides the above direct contributions I have also to express my gratitude to very many for encouragement and suggestion. I am also most sincerely grateful to those lumbermen who have materially aided the experiment by assisting in the erection of the reading camps already built, and to those who have volunteered to put up buildings for this purpose at their own expense, at their new camps next summer.

There is little doubt that if the Ontario Government makes a reasonable effort to supply this need, it will meet not only with the co-operation of the lumbermen and woodsmen, but of the public generally.

A. F.

A FEW REPLIES TO CIRCULAR.

We are in sympathy with any extension of the public library system that promises to embrace the needs of all the working classes, and prove an important factor in their education.

FERGUSON & McFADDEN.

Sudbury,

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 7th inst., to hand. I am quite in sympathy with the move you mention, and would be pleased to do anything to assist you. Drop me a line and let me know more definitely what you want me to do.

Wishing you success I am,

Yours respectfully,

A. MISCAMPBELL.

Sault Ste. Marie,
Sept. 15th, 1900.

No better plan could be devised to elevate the morale of all laborers than by developing their taste for, and bringing them in touch with, the best literature of our time.

JAS. B. KLOCK.

Ottawa.

We are in sympathy with such an extension of the public library system as will meet the needs of all classes, workmen not excepted.

THE HULL LUMBER CO.

We are in sympathy with the proposed extension of the public library system.

BOOTH & GORDON.

I will be glad to further the scheme in any possible way in my power.

W. CHARLTON.

Toronto.

I am fully in accord with your representation of this matter, and would like to see the object obtained, and as speedily as possible. There is no doubt about its importance. Anything I can do to assist you will be cheerfully done.

J. J. McNEIL.

Toronto,

Oct. 4th, 1900.

Dear Sir,—I heartily approve of library extension along the line you indicate, and hope that you may secure the necessary legislation.

Yours truly,

F. H. CLERGUE.

Saint Ste. Marie,

Oct. 20th, 1900.

Dear Sir,—We are in sympathy with any extension of the public library system that tends to educate the masses. The appointment of a travelling library commission by the Ontario Government is doubtless needed. In the meantime

much may be accomplished through the
Local Library Boards.

Yours truly,

SAGINAW LUMBER & SALT CO.
Whitefish, Ont.,
Sept. 15th.

Dear Sir,—I am in sympathy with any movement that tends to the comfort and enlightenment of the masses, lumbermen not excepted. The request of the Little Current Library Board is a reasonable one. If the camps are to be supplied with suitable literature it must come through the same channels as that of the towns and villages, namely the public libraries. Extension along this line of public education is desirable and feasible.

J. LAUGHRIN.

Mattawa.

W. C. Edwards & Co., Lumber Mfrs.,
Rockland, Ont.,
Sept. 15th, 1900.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your enquiry I beg to say that I think it will be worth while considering some plan of supplying literature to shanty employees, and if there is any reasonable line on which it can be done, it is highly desirable that it should be done.

Yours truly,
W. C. EDWARDS.

Dear Sir,—Have looked into the matter of supplying literature to lumbermen in the camps, and am heartily in sympathy with the movement. To my mind this can only be accomplished by making certain convenient points headquarters for the distribution among the lumber and mining camps of good sound literature, which, while serving to while away the tedious hour, will at the same time tend to elevate the mind. The travelling library is the only feasible plan for reaching camps. The Ontario Government, receiving as it does, immense revenues from the timber of the Province, should take heed to the matter, and by establishing the travelling library system on a business basis, and having the work done in a systematic way, turn a small portion of this revenue to the workmen in the woods.

I am, yours truly,

A. J. YOUNG.

Cache Bay,

Nov. 26th, 1900.

We will be building two new camps at Cache Bay for next year's work; and to aid in the experiment I will have reading rooms built at both of them. The expense will not be much, and will not be spoken of.

It will be a pleasure to me to do anything that will tend to the education of

the men frequenting the lumbering woods.
J. R. BOOTH.

Ottawa,
Sept. 17th, 1900.

Dear Sir,—I think that your suggestion that the public library system may be so extended as to embrace the needs of lumber and mining camps an excellent one, and I shall be happy to co-operate with you in any practicable way for securing the consummation of this purpose. I have no doubt that the supply of literature of this kind at lumber camps would tend to create a home feeling among a class of men whose services are most desirable. I shall be happy to use any influence I may possess with the Department of Education in furthering your purpose, and I assure you of my entire sympathy with the movement in which you are engaged.

Yours very truly,

JOHN CHARLTON.

Lynedoch,
Sept 14th, 1900.

My Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:—

We shall be constructing one new camp next season, and running one that we have in operation the present winter, and we will undertake to build a reading camp for the men, at each of those places, if you can manage to furnish a supply of literature. We shall also be glad to aid in this matter.



Reading Shanty, with part of Crew, Edmund Hall's Camp 8, twelve miles north of Nain Centre ;
size, 20 x 30 feet.

I think that any outlay of this character will be more than repaid to the lumbermen owning the camps, by creating a superior morale among the men, and greater degree of content and an appreciation of this homelike influence. It is too late, I fear, to make arrangements for doing this the present winter, but we will attend to it the coming season, and will also try to make arrangements at our rafting camp next spring, if we find it feasible to do so.

I wish you success in the work you have undertaken. It is a philanthropic and important one.

Faithfully yours,

JOHN CHARLTON.

Lynedoch,

Dec. 13th, 1900.

The Georgian Bay Lumber Co.,

Waubashere,

Dec, 14th, 1900.

The company have no camps of their own in the Nipissing District or in Algoma. We have camps in the District of Muskoka; and, if your scheme is intended to reach that district, we will undertake to supply a reading camp and perhaps more than one, next season, at our operations there.

Yours truly,

W. J. SHEPPARD,

Pres. Georgian Bay Lumbr. Co.

Mr. A. Fitzpatrick,
Nairn Centre, Ont.

Dear Sir, We are in receipt of your circular letter of the 12th inst., asking if we will agree to build a reading shanty in connection with one of our lumber camps, for the purpose of accommodating a traveling library, which the Department of Education purposes to establish.

We might say in regard to this that if the Department wishes it, we will build one of the shanties in connection with the logging camp as an experiment as you suggest.

Yours truly,

D. C. CAMERON,

Pres. and Manager Rat Portage Lumber Co.

I will be pleased to aid in the experiment. I have two camps near Pinage Lake that will be used another season, and will build a reading camp at either to suit you.

JAS. J. McFADDEN.

Sudbury,

Nov. 16th, 1900.

I am quite in sympathy with the movement and am pleased to have the experiment of a reading room tried at one of my camps at Nairn Centre. I will pay the wages of the men engaged in building it. It will probably be a good thing. If not, it will at least do us good to try it.

EDMUND HALL,

Nairn Centre,

November, 1900.

We have no doubt but that the reading room will supply a much needed want. To try the experiment we will give you the use of a shanty which has been used for a private family, but which, with repairs, will serve the purpose.

THE VICTORIA HARBOR LUMBER CO.
Per. R. JACKSON.

Nairn Centre, Ont.,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

We are fully in accord with the project. Our crew will be divided soon, as it is the last cut, and the timber is scattered. If, however, you think the expenditure wise we will be glad to see the experiment well tried. We will tote the material, cut and haul the logs, and pay the men's wages for building.

HALE & BELL.

Nairn Centre, Ont.,
Nov. 15th.

Dear Sir,—I have been a large employer of labor at various times and have invariably supplied my employees with standard reading matter and a room in which they could read and write their letters, I think most of the lumber and mining men of the present day would gladly supply proper accommodation for their men on these lines.

You are deserving of all support in your

endeavor and may rest assured of my hearty co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

JOS. COUSINS.

Sault Ste. Marie,
Sept. 10th, 1900.

PRESS NOTICES.

The scheme is one which should receive general support.

The Sudbury Mining Journal.

Oct. 4th, 1900.

The scheme is a good one. We shall have more to say regarding it later.

The Manitoulin Expressor.

Little Current,
Sept. 6th.

We hope that the efforts to obtain library extension so as to embrace the needs of lumber and mining camps may be crowned with success.

The Canada Lumberman.

November.

A library in close touch with the different camps, where the men could procure good, wholesome reading, is something that will not only be gladly welcomed and

endorsed by every lumberman, but will be greatly appreciated by their employees.

The North Bay Times.

Oct. 11th.

It is a good plan, and we hope to see it working in time for the coming winter

The Globe.

Toronto,

Oct. 3rd.

The work ought to be taken up by a commission appointed by the Ontario Government, because the circulation unless conducted strictly on business lines, must tend to disorder and discredit. It would be necessary to provide special boxes arranged for carrying and showing the books, printed catalogues and notes with each box, and systematic arrangements for exchange after either three or six months' use.

Above all, the books must not be the surplus copies of a library, public or private, but must be chosen with the greatest care, specially bound for the work they have to do. A hundred libraries of this kind freely distributed through the more backward parts of Ontario would do great work. It would naturally lead in a short time to specialized libraries for special classes, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.

JAMES BAIN, Jr.

Toronto,

Sept. 11th, 1900.

I think that for the present it would be well to use the means that you have at hand, doing what you can to supply the various camps with books obtained from accessible sources, but aiming eventually at getting a modification of the Libraries Act, or trying to get a travelling libraries act, such as they have in certain States of the Union, and also in British Columbia. I have, for the last three years, thought that we were behind the time in this matter in Ontario. A comprehensive travelling libraries act would be of immense benefit to the poorer parts of the province, and if we could get one passed this coming session, or at the following one, the lumber camps could be served in the same way as a backwoods township, with books every three months.

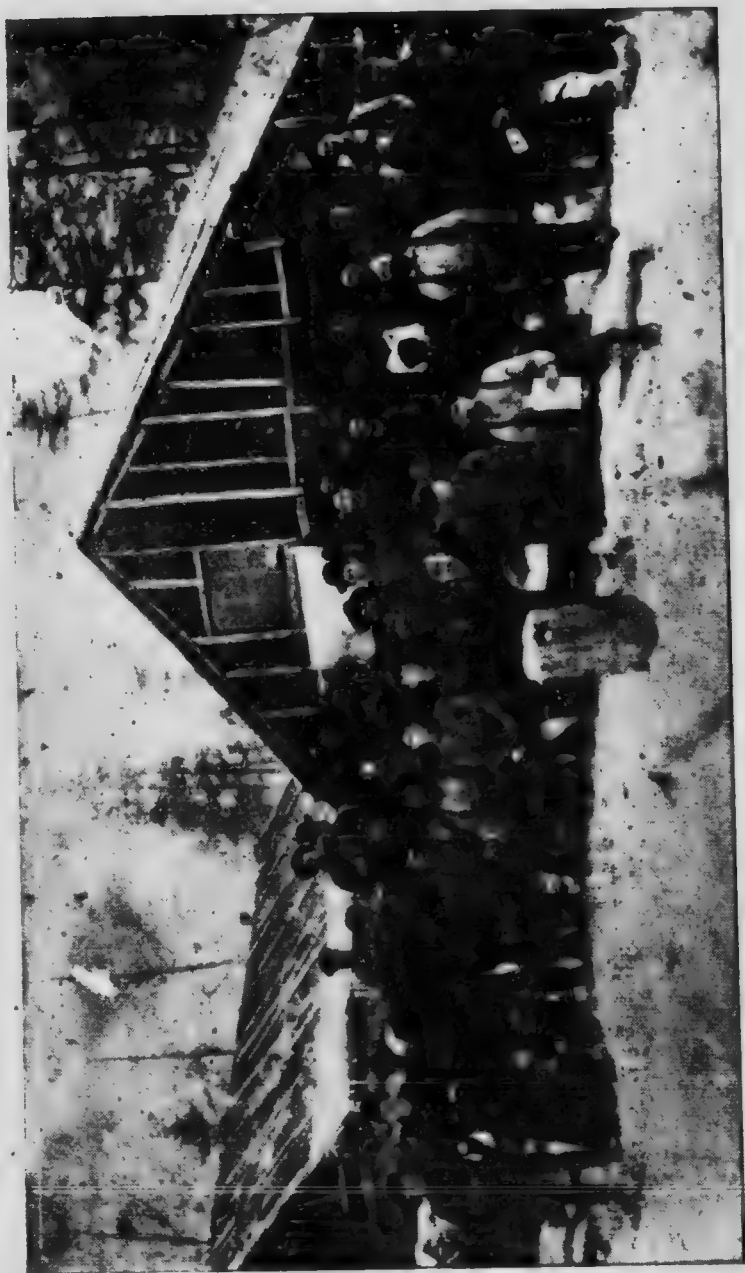
A. B. MACALLUM, M.D.

Toronto,
Sept. 10th, 1900.

If only a few dozen of workmen could be benefited by your plan of elevating their taste for literature, and withdrawing them from the liquor habit, much good would be accomplished.

R. A. O'CONNOR,
Bishop of Peterborough.

St. Peter's Cathedral, Peterborough,
Nov. 9th, 1900.



Reading Room, with part of Crew, J. J. McFadden's Camp 2, near Pinage Lake, twenty-one miles south of Whitefish Station, Algoma. Mrs. Alex. Scott, of Renfrew, wife of the foreman, who kindly volunteered to take charge of the reading camp and sing and play for the men, standing on the left.

Dear Sir,—I think your plan for providing the lumber camps with good reading a very excellent one.

GEORGE ALGOMA,

Bishop of the Church of England.
Sault Ste. Marie,
Oct. 6th, 1900.

The needs of the submerged classes that are multiplying so rapidly in these northern regions will require more attention in the near future than they have in the past. Your idea of a circulating library is a good one. I will do all I can to help on the movement, but you may count on difficulties, as it is so much out of the ordinary line of things. The working men are coming to the top these days.

ALLAN FINDLAY, D.D.,

Supt. Pres. Missions.

Your work in connection with lumbermen is most commendable.

HERBERT A. BRUCE, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Toronto,

Nov. 18th, 1900.

I hope you will meet with all the success your laudable project deserves.

W. H. DRUMMOND, M.D.,
(Author of "Habitant.")

Montreal,

Sept. 26th, 1900.

Rev. A. Fitzpatrick,
Webbwood, Ont., Canada:

My Dear Sir:—

In answer to your letter of July 18, I would say that the State Library of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, has done a good deal in the way of travelling libraries for rural districts, lumber camps, and the like. It might be well for you to correspond with them.

Another good plan is to collect magazines from churches and individuals and send these to the lumber camps. I firmly believe that the only way to get into relations with these men is to give them something which appeals to them. The great mistake that Christian people make, it seems to me, is providing a literature which does not interest these men. They do not want so-called religious reading. They ought to have good literature, and by supplying this the church people can get into relations with them.

GEORGE E. VINCENT.

Chatauqua, N.Y.,

July 27th, 1900.

I have long seen the necessity of such work among the thousands of people working in the lumbering and mining camps, but the ways and means were lacking. It may be so that you will succeed in interesting enough of charitable and benevolently disposed people to make the attempt an assured success this time. Rest assured

that no one will rejoice at this more than myself.

Rev. E. D. PELLETIER.

Sudbury, Ont.,
Oct. 29th, 1900.

I have no hesitation in giving the scheme my cordial approval. When one considers the very large number of men found in these camps, that many of them have wives and children, that the young men among them are easily led astray, and that unless the mind is occupied with what is pure and elevating, the camp is apt to come under influences that tend only to pollute and degrade, it is easily understood how much may be done through wholesome literature.

Rev. Jas. ROBERTSON, D.D.

Toronto,
Aug. 13th, 1900.

McMaster University,
The Chancellor's Office.

Dear Sir,—I am a hearty supporter of the idea of the "Travelling Library." The extension of this idea to lumbering camps seems to me to be worthy of the warmest encouragement.

Yours very truly,
A. C. WALLACE.

Toronto, Canada,
Dec. 18th, 1900.

Victoria University,

My Dear Sir,—I need only say that I regard the work which you are furthering as full of promise of the very best results. What our noble, hardy men of the woods require first of all is salvation from the deteriorating influences of their peculiar isolated life; and that influence is most of all felt in their idle moments. By giving them good, interesting, healthy books, you will give them healthy thoughts, and so purer conversation and better moral foundations; and upon these alone can a true and abiding religious life be built. The work is one which comes legitimately within the range of government support, and it deserves the most serious and liberal consideration of every lover of his country.

Wishing you success,

I am yours truly,

N. BURWASH.

Queen's Park, Toronto,
Dec. 17th, 1900.

I highly approve of the extension of the public library system, so as to embrace the needs of the lumber and mining camps. That reading shanties, open every night and all day on the day of rest are urgently needed I believe, but the indispensable requisite is the right man to supervise and keep them running on lines suited to the

actual condition and temperament of
miners and lumberers.

Sincerely yours,

G. M. GRANT.

Queen's University,
Dec. 22nd, 1900.

Rev. A. Fitzpatrick,
Nairn Centre,
Algoma, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I am heartily in sympathy with the movement in favor of travelling libraries. I consider that such libraries are entitled to support from the government, and that the extension of the privileges of these libraries to camps and other isolated localities is especially desirable.

I wish you every success in your commendable efforts to bring good literature within the reach of our woodsmen and miners. Wishing you the compliments of the season.

Yours faithfully,

J. LOUDON.

Toronto University,
Jan. 1st, 1901.

A. Fitzpatrick, Esq.,
Nairn Centre, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I have read with much interest and pleasure your letter of the 7th inst., in which you outline your plan to provide reading material for our Canadian lumber and mining camps. I should suppose there must be many in the camps who would heartily appreciate an opportunity of easy

access to some good books, but the surest test of the existence or non-existence of the need of such a plan as you have in view is the reception your efforts may meet with.

Wishing you every success, I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. C. S. MACKLEM,

Provost.

Trinity College,

Toronto,

Jan. 12th, 1901.

There are only 115 men in this camp, but I venture to state that more men take advantage of this reading shanty than of the reading rooms of many towns of five or six thousand population. It is certainly better patronized than either the Y.M.C.A. or public reading room of Peterborough, which has a population of 10,000.

GEORGE CHALMERS,

Government Culler,

Formerly Foreman "Examiner" Office,
Peterborough.

Camp 8,

Nairn Centre,

Feb. 1st, 1901.

The reading camp is a decided success. Our men take to it very kindly, and it is a pleasure to Mrs. Scott to assist those who are learning to read and write.

ALEX. SCOTT,

Foreman Camp 2.

Whitefish,

Feb. 1st, 1901.

The reading camp is a success. In spite of the fact that eighty percent of our men are French Canadians, and fifty percent cannot read English or French, I am surprised to find that a building 20 x 30 feet is filled every evening, and all day Sundays. There is less swearing, gambling, 'jumping' and running to the saloons. Ninety-six of our men took Christmas dinner in the camp. Already several have learned to read books of one syllable. No wiser and better investment could be made by any country devoted to the interests of its woodsmen and miners than just this sort of accommodation.

FELIX BIGLOW.

Foreman E. Hall's Camp 8.

Nairn Centre,

Feb. 2nd, 1901.

I have visited the reading room at Camp 8, Nairn Centre, and gladly testify to the benefit it undoubtedly is to the men who are shut off from so many privileges that others enjoy. About eighty-five percent of these men belong to the church I represent, but the movement is non-denominational, and it gives me pleasure to commend it.

The Rev. Father P. E. LEFEBURE.

Imm. Conception Church.

Massey Station.

Dec. 31st, 1900.

After a three months' trial of the reading camp I very cheerfully commend it to all whom it may concern. At first I was skeptical as to its value, and opposed to the building of a large shanty. Our men appreciate their privilege, are steadier and more reconciled to their lot. The change I am strongly inclined to attribute to this homelike influence.

THOS. SHAW,
Foreman,

Camp 2, Victoria Harbor Co.
Nairn Centre,
Feb. 2nd, 1901.

I have spent two days at the Reading Shanty at the Victoria Harbor Co.'s camp No. 2, Nairn Centre, and am delighted to see what a large number of men take advantage of it; and this, too, after the novelty had worn off, it being open nearly six weeks. In fact the interest has increased, and the building which was 16 x 18 feet, has had to have an annex of 12 x 14 feet added. Without request I very gladly contributed my mite to this experiment, and indeed feel that I never spent money that gave me more pleasure in the giving, and that I never gave to a nobler cause.

A. J. BRACE,
Pastor Methodist Church,
Webbwood.

Dec. 27th, 1900.

It is now fairly well established that the travelling library movement would be a popular one in the lumber camps. The test has been made in several camps with gratifying results. Special reading rooms or camps have been built and the best newspapers, magazines, books, etc., supplied. The novelty is quite the vogue amongst our woodsmen. At any one of the reading camps already established one may get free the latest news in English and French, read the latest novel or history or sit down to a game of one kind or another. The government should aid efforts such as these.

THE SUDBURY "JOURNAL,"

Jan. 11th, 1901.

Educational Department Ontario.

A. Fitzpatrick, Esq.,

Nairn Centre, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I have just read your letter of Oct. 27th. We will permit Public Library Boards to send books to the lumber camps. The whole question is an important one and I hope that we may make a good beginning this coming season.

Faithfully yours,

R. HARCOURT.

Toronto,

Oct. 30th, 1900.

Educational Department Ontario.

A. Fitzpatrick, Esq.,

Nairn Centre, Ont.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of Nov. 16th is

before me. Of course I have no objection to your notifying the Library Boards of our decision. We will notify them as well. Hoping for very satisfactory results and that something even better may be devised in the near future.

Faithfully yours,

R. HARCOURT.

Toronto,

Nov. 20th, 1900.

Educational Department Ontario.

A. Fitzpatrick, Esq.,
Nairn Centre, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I have your interesting letter of Dec. 18th, dealing with the subject of Libraries in Lumber Camps. Allow me to say that those who, like yourself, are taking an interest in this matter, are engaged in a most laudable undertaking. I hope the movement will be as successful as it deserves to be. These Libraries will enable the employees to beguile the tedium of the lumber camps and it is to be hoped that they will as well foster a love of reading and a desire for information, the result of which will be lasting good to all concerned. I am presuming, of course, that the books will be carefully selected and that they will not belong to that class of books which are known in England as "shilling shockers." As I intimated to you on a previous occasion, I am desirous of helping you in every way in my power.

Faithfully yours,

R. HARCOURT.

Toronto,

Dec. 20th, 1900.

McGill University Library.

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick,—

As the result of our former correspondence, we are sending you a travelling library to Nairn Centre, in response to your application duly received.

We have some doubts as to what would be most useful in this new phase of travelling library work, and I hope you will regard this library in the light of an experiment, and will give me frankly such suggestions as its use may lead you to think practical. You will see from the fact of our sending this library to Algoma, that we have no desire to restrict our work to Quebec, though we naturally wish to do as much as possible in our own province. I feel, however, that lumber and mining camps offer a very interesting, and in some respects peculiarly important field for travelling libraries. It is on this account that I am sending you a picture with the library—something that we should hardly do when sending to an ordinary public library.

I am not the only one here who is much alive to work with the camps, but let me assure you that I am greatly interested in it.

With best wishes for its success,

I am faithfully yours,

C. H. GOULD

Montreal,

Feb. 4th, 1901.

